

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, Claims 1 and 6 are amended; and no claims are cancelled or added herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP2000-090539 to Takemasa; and Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP2003-115152 to Kasuga in view of Takemasa.

With respect to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Takemasa and Kasuga, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art does not teach or suggest an annular loading support part configured to position the disc cartridge in the horizontal direction and in the height-wise direction, the loading support part having a ring-shaped center fitting protrusion at an inner periphery fitted in the opening for a driving unit of said disc cartridge, the annular loading support part being spaced apart from and surrounding the driving unit, and a peripheral edge of the opening is configured to abut against an outer peripheral edge of the annular loading support part, as recited in Claim 1 and similarly recited in Claim 6.

In contrast, Takemasa discusses a motor 14 provided to rotate the turntable 13. Turntable 13 includes a CD mounting surface 13a onto which the CD 2 is placed, a CD axis of rotation 13b, and a centering part 13c. As best shown in Fig. 5, the various surfaces of turntable 13, rotated by motor 14, are provided as a single integral unit. As shown in Fig. 6A, the CD is clamped by the clamping circuit 12 and the turntable 13 does not move. If the CD is clamped by the turntable 13, the turntable 13 will start rotation and the data will be read. In Fig. 6B, if the substrate 17 moves up, projections 13g will contact the inner surface of

cartridge 3. The cartridge 3 will be moved up and movement will stop in contact with holder 11. When the rise of the substrate 17 is suspended, the turntable 13 will start rotation and data will be read out. As shown in Fig. 6B, the bottom surface of the cartridge 3 includes an opening for turntable 13. The edge of the opening is spaced apart from the turntable 13.

Accordingly, the features of the claimed invention are not taught or suggested by the applied art. Again, Claims 1 and 6 similarly recite an annular loading support part having a protrusion at an inner periphery fitted in an opening for a driving unit, the annular loading support part being spaced apart from and surrounding the driving unit and a peripheral edge of the opening abuts against an outer peripheral edge of the annular loading support part. In Takemasa, element 13(b) merely engages the inner edge of the opening in the CD 2. Takemasa does teach or suggest the claim features discussed above. Kasuga does not make up for the deficiencies of Takemasa discussed above, nor does the office action assert as such.

In an example of the present invention shown Fig. 13, an inner peripheral surface 81 of the center opening 12 is used as a mounting reference surface. A loading support member 86 surrounds the disc rotation driving unit 85 for loading the disc cartridge 1 in the correct loading position in the planar direction and along the height-wise direction. A ring-shaped center fitting protrusion 92 is dimensioned to be abutted against and fitted to an inner peripheral surface 81 of the center opening 12 for positioning the disc cartridge 1 in the horizontal direction. In accordance with these features, the disc cartridge may have its mounting position set by the center opening 12 and its near-by portion, and may be mounted in this state on the recording apparatus so that it is unnecessary to provide an ejection setting reference opening on the outer periphery of the disc housing section. Therefore, it is not necessary to provide an area for a positioning reference opening, and hence the disc cartridge may further be reduced in size. Further, it is not necessary to provide means for positioning a

disc cartridge, such as reference pin, in the vicinity of the disc drive unit, thus enabling the apparatus itself to be reduced in size.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

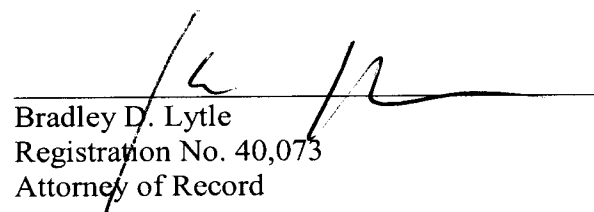
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